

REMARKS

In the present office action, claims 1, 5-6, and 9 have been amended, claims 13-16 have been canceled, and new claim 17 has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. In the present office action, formal objections to claims 5 and 6 relating to the use of the trademark HARLEY DAVIDSON have been corrected. No objections were made to subsequent claims that made reference to HARLEY DAVIDSON products, so no changes have been made in those claims. It is believed that the claims are in proper form without change, because they properly relate to structural characteristics of the claimed subject matter. If the examiner intended to object to these claims as well, a telephone interview with the examiner in order to resolve this would be appreciated.

Claim 1 has been objected to for the use "such as golf clubs." The golf clubs are not part of the combination, but they do define structural parameters of the claimed subject matter that make them appropriate for carrying golf clubs. The language of the claim has been modified to remove the term "such as." Again, if this language is not satisfactory, a telephone interview with the examiner would be appreciated.

The other remaining formal objection has been taken care of. In addition, the claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out the subject matter covered by the claims. In addition, a new claim 17 has been added, which describes the present invention as a component of a combination that includes a motorcycle. It is believed that all of these claims, as amended, are in proper form for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

With respect to the substance of the present office action, claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Puluso. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Puluso employs a mounting plate that is mounted on the axle of a motorcycle, and the mounting plate extends upwardly along the side of the motorcycle wheel. Mounting and

dismounting this mounting plate requires unbolting the mounting plate from the axle. The mounting plate is otherwise unattractive and obtrusive and would never be left on the motorcycle for normal use of the motorcycle. Instead, the mounting plate would be taken off of the motorcycle if the motorcycle were to be used normally.

In the present invention, the mounting plate is mounted on existing fender mounting holes on the fender. The mounting plate is unobtrusive and includes only a small mounting block that extends outwardly from the fender. This mounting plate can be left permanently on the motorcycle without impairing the appearance of the motorcycle. The mounting plate is superimposed over an existing bracket that is attached to the side of the motorcycle fender. It would appear that similar type of component is referred to in Hann as a "rear fender strut" and in Aron as a "fender brace portion of frame 32." Hann and Aron, however, relate to saddle bag support mechanisms, and they include a mounting mechanism that is obtrusive and is intended to be removed with the saddle bags.

In contrast, the present invention does not relate to a saddle bag support, but relates to a cradle for carrying golf bags. An important advantage of the present invention is that the mounting plate can be left on the vehicle when the golf bag cradle is removed, and the mounting plate is unobtrusive during normal use of the motorcycle. This advantage and feature of the present invention is not disclosed in any of the references in this office action.

The closest mounting structure is shown in Puluso, but Puluso leaves a large mounting plate mounted on the axle of the motorcycle when the golf bag cradle is removed. This is completely different from the present invention, and the present invention is not shown or suggested in any single reference or any logical combination of references of record in this case.

Considering the claims, as amended, claim 1 has been amended mainly for clarification purposes, to make it clear that the mounting plate is mounted on existing fender holes in an upper

side of the fender, and the golf bag cradle is mounted on a mounting block on the mounting plate. None of the references disclose this construction. Therefore, it is urged that claim 1, as amended is allowable.

Claims 2-12 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reason as claim 1. In addition, these claims contain additional features of the invention that are not disclosed in the references of record.

In view of the amendments to claims 1-12, claims 13-16 were deemed unnecessary and have been canceled. A new claim 17 has been added that provides an additional basis for the allowance of this application. Claim 17 includes the motorcycle as an element of the combination and specifically recites the mounting block mounted on the fender mounted mounting plate. As described above, this structure distinguishes the references of record in this case.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is urged that all of the claims remaining in the case, namely, claims 1-12 and 17 are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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